

In the Claims

1 (currently amended). A method for the identification of a cell, or the detection of a product of metabolism, cell growth, and/or germination, wherein said method comprises immobilising the cell on an antibody in a device also containing a sensor, and introducing a growth medium, wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor comprising an analyte-sensitive matrix having an optical transducing structure disposed throughout its volume, wherein the sensor is sensitive to a product of the cell's metabolism, growth, and/or germination; and detecting any change in an optical characteristic of the sensor; ~~wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor.~~

2 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell is immobilised on an antibody that is attached to a magnetic particle.

3 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell is a spore cell.

4 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 4, wherein the bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Bacillus globigii*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Legionella pneumophila*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Salmonella* spp., *E.coli* spp., *Listeria* spp., *Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Campylobacter* spp.

6-7 (canceled).

8 (currently amended). A device suitable for the detection of a cell by a method comprising immobilising the cell in a device that also contains a sensor, and introducing a growth medium, wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor comprising an analyte-sensitive matrix having an optical transducing structure disposed throughout its volume, wherein the sensor is sensitive to a product of

the cell's metabolism, growth and/or germination; and detecting any change in an optical characteristic of the sensor that is caused by the cell's metabolism, growth, and/or germination;

wherein said device comprises a chamber including a sensor, an antibody, and a growth medium, and an inlet for a sample;

~~and wherein the sensor is a holographic sensor.~~

9 (canceled).

10 (previously presented). The device according to claim 8, wherein the antibody is immobilised on a wall of the chamber.

11 (previously presented). The device according to claim 8, which additionally comprises the antibody immobilised on a magnetic particle, and the said means can provide a magnetic field.

12 (previously presented). The device according to claim 8, further comprising a container including a buffer solution, in connection with the sample inlet.

13 (previously presented). The device according to claim 8, which comprises a series of said chambers.

14 (canceled).